

SOCER NEWS

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Soccer World - Soccer News

Readers praise our Survey

READERS this week praised the Soccer World-Soccer News survey.

They said it was the best thing Soccer had done in Australia.

It could only help find the answer to some of the problems facing the code today.

Last week we asked readers to help our investigation to find the "lost crowds" of Soccer.

In a questionnaire we listed possible causes of the slump in crowds and also asked readers for their opinions for Soccer's decline in Victoria.

There have been many letters and phone calls on the subject and because of its importance we reprint the questionnaire again this week on page 5.

This will be your last chance to take part in the survey, so complete it now and post immediately to Soccer News, 52 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda.

In Sydney, Soccer World have been flooded with letters and comments about the decline of the game there.

Today we publish Soccer World's findings in the hope that it will help improve the game and assist administrators for the future.

Whatever the outcome, the survey will be an excellent guide to all those concerned with the promotion of Soccer in Victoria.

Whether officials act on the survey's findings is a matter for them.

SOCER CAN MARK TIME IN VICTORIA OR IT CAN GO AHEAD FAST DEPENDING ON THOSE WHO CONTROL THE GAME.

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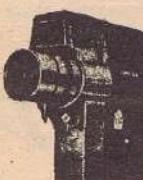
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FIRST AGAIN!

● Readers have expressed the wish for more pictures of top Soccer action. This week Soccer News sent two photographers to capture all the highlights at the big State League games. In this issue we bring you our special pictorial cover. It's just another Soccer News service which no other Australian newspaper provides.

LIONS PROTEST-



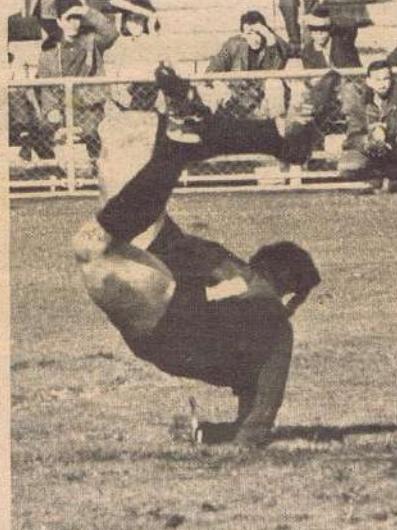
ABOVE: Billy Rice (J.U.S.T.) charges in from his centre half position to save a dangerous situation at Olympic Park on Saturday.

Eddie Sacco, one of George Cross's best men on the ground, has Rice covered and so too has a very alert Marko Fode, in the J.U.S.T. goal.

J.U.S.T. won 3-1.

RIGHT: More fine action from Fode as he dives to save a shot from Bobby Horsfall. The ball went inches wide of the post.

Photos by Don Hruska.



"D" DAY FOR THEM

By JIM COOK

It is "D" Day for Hellas and George Cross at Middle Park on Sunday.

The 1965 State League championship hinges on this game.

With both contestants for the 1965 State League championship being cut to size last week by J.U.S.T. and Melbourne, the big stakes and high interest remains in the 90 minutes of this encounter.

Although George Cross slumped and missed the boat by going under to J.U.S.T., they can thank Melbourne for giving them the chance to make this a real contest.

And real contest it should be in the deadly earnest battle to go on and win the league.

With the decline in attendances this season this top-class attraction will or

should provide a yardstick to the future limitations of the game. For unless Middle Park is filled to capacity (and it has never been) then the search for reasons to decline must go on.

What of the game? What are the prospects of the sides?

CASUAL

Neither have been convincing recently but both can rise to the occasion and turn on the power type Soccer with accurate finishing which makes supporters stand up and cheer.

Hellas will have to improve on their approach play and their casual attitude which has recently robbed them of pace. But

when in the mood, they can be devastating, especially in attack as their goal scoring record shows.

George Cross have lost some rhythm from their side and rely on the build up and promptings of their wing halves.

In attack they are good as individuals but fall down through lack of combination.

All too often they have failed to click and emphasise their outfield superiority.

At all square game could easily result.

For an outright decision I plump for George Cross — the more tenacious of the pair.

Now turn to page 3 for a State League preview.

"WE WANT POINTS"

By FRED VILLIERS

LIONS have sent an official protest to the Victorian Soccer Federation following their game with Wilhelmina at Jubilee Park, Ringwood, on Saturday.

Wilhelmina won the State League match 4-3.

Lions claim that Wilhelmina played Frank Stoffels at inside forward in the second half but his name was not on the team sheet.

Wilhelmina admit this but say it was a "technical error" made by their secretary.

Soccer News reporter Martyn Harris who covered the game said: "After a poor first half in which they were lucky to be level 2-all at half time, Wilhelmina brought in Stoffels who made all the difference".

Stoffels replaced Duignan who played inside left.

JOHN VANDERLOO, Lions' club manager, said yesterday:

"Lions have lodged an official protest to the Federation and the Wilhelmina club by registered mail."

"I think anyone connected with Wilhelmina would know that Stoffels is one of their best players. When I looked at their team sheet I was amazed that he was not on the list."

"There were three reserves on the team sheet but Stoffels was not one of them."

"Stoffels was not sitting on the reserve seat in preparation for the game."

"We have a fair case and all we want is the points. We are not interested in a re-play."

"This is Wilhelmina's mistake and they should pay for it."

"Stoffels made the two goals for Wilhelmina and this gives us a better chance for an appeal".

SECRETARY'S MISTAKE

JOHN VAN HOBOKEN, Wilhelmina president, said:

"Our secretary made the mistake of putting the same reserves on the team sheet for the first team and the second team."

"This whole matter is a technicality. Stoffels is not an unregistered player."

"Everything is in order except the team sheet was written out incorrectly."

"Stoffels was officially our reserve player on the reserve seat. He's been off for three weeks. I didn't think he was fit enough to play that's why he was made a reserve for the game."

"There is nothing in the rules for Lions to protest about".

"I have checked Lions' team sheet and I find that they too have made a technical mistake by not including the players' initials on the list".

FOOTNOTE: Late yesterday Lions filed a second protest alleging Wilhelmina goalkeeper Treffers and reserve full back Ferguson were not registered players with the Federation.

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Referee Bobby Lamb assists South Melbourne-Hellas inside forward Boulos Kamboropoulos at Olympic Park on Sunday — Photo: Uwe Kueßner.

BACKGROUND TO SOCCER

£45,000?

One of the few people who would know the answer to such a question is the star player of the Hapoel Tel Aviv touring party, Gideon Tish, because he recently rejected such a figure to leave Israel.

The offer came from the Porto first division club and is the biggest ever made to an Israeli player.

Tish is regarded as his country's most popular player and his 68 appearances in the National team include World Cup matches against Wales, Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Hapoel opened its tour last night (Wednesday) with a floodlit match against Sydney's Hakoah club and will play a combined team from South Melbourne-Hellas and Hakoah at the South Melbourne Cricket Ground on September 1.

The touring party includes many leading International players. The team's skipper, Amatzia Leukovitch, has made more than 80 appearances in the National side and another outstanding player is the club's 19-year-old full-back David Primo.

Primo won an award as the best player on the field with the Israeli team when he played a World Cup game against Belgium two months ago in Brussels.

The goal-keeper, Yosi Shoam, who has been given a special release from National Service in the Army to make the tour, is also the Israeli table tennis champion.

No wonder that he is credited with having extraordinarily quick eyesight.

The team's World Cup inside left, Chaim Nurieli, is another player who should be well worth watching.

He has been given the nick-name of "Stanley Matthews of Israel" because of the way in which he can turn an opponent almost inside out with his clever control of the ball.

Abramah Frederick, who has won three International caps as an inside forward, is recognised as the fastest Soccer player in Israel and has been clocked at 10.9 seconds over 100 metres.

All of which adds up to the fact that Hapoel should be worth going a long way to see.

YOU can back Chelsea at odds of 7 to 1 if you fancy the club's chances of winning the coming English League championship.

Coral's, the London bookmakers, say that betting interest on the F.A. Cup and League championship so far exceeds that of any previous year.

Among the most popularly backed teams are West Ham, Manchester United, Everton and Tottenham Hotspur and the first big bet of the new season was made last week when bookmaker William Hill accepted a £500 wager on Spurs to win the League championship at odds of 10 to 1.

But after they accepted the bet, Hills clipped the odds about Spurs to 8 to 1.

Manchester United is 3-1 favorite to retain the first division title with Liverpool 5-1, Everton 6-1 and Chelsea 7-1.

SYDNEY'S first division competition is going to be increased from 10 to 12 teams next year and the third grade will be abolished.

These major points will be recommended by the N.S.W. Soccer Federation's management committee to the next meeting of the Federation Council on September 8.

An increase appears to be certain despite opposition from some clubs who want to maintain a 10 team competition.

The extra teams will be nominated by the management committee bearing in mind the earlier decision that clubs should go out into the districts rather than stay in the inner city areas.

The bottom team in the first division will continue to be relegated and the top team in the second division will gain promotion.

Morrie Buckner says...

THE suggestion that the State League should separate itself from the Federation but remain affiliated, if implemented, would appear to be like all separations — the first step in divorce proceedings.

Another suggestion, that the State League form itself into a limited company with 12 directors, representing the clubs on its Board, and that each club register as a company, all sounds logical and businesslike.

Every company must by law produce Articles and Memoranda of Association, and this document, having much more weight than the loose constitution of a sporting body, cannot be trifled with. So, on the face of them, these recommendations are good ones.

But how do you get the clubs, most of which are badly run and deeply in debt, to toe the mark and regularise their affairs, their books, and their annual statements and balance sheets to a degree that will satisfy the Registrar of Companies?

And how do you get the temperamental directors of the State League Company Limited to agree to work together like a group of businessmen instead of politicians?

* * *

SOCER matches that involve form reversals and upset results are always interesting to watch. Probing the basic reasons for "shock" performances is an even more rewarding pastime.

Both of the matches at Olympic Park last weekend produced displays which are necessarily referred to in the daily Press as "shock results". But it's not the results that shock, it's the performances.

For instance, the fact that Melbourne beat Hellas 3-2 doesn't really come as a shock. Melbourne has a team loaded with individual ability and its eight draws this season show that it has always been on the verge of better things. Too often, however, Melbourne's five forwards played like strangers who, like an Australian parachuting into Siberia, need an interpreter badly.

The shock in this game was not Melbourne's good performance, it was Hellas' poor one. Hellas played like an unfin team: It also played like a team without purpose. The players failed to press home attacks when in the forward area, and their attitude seemed to be: "We can beat Melbourne without half trying". By the time they woke up to their real predicament, it was too late.

The poor display by Hellas also emphasised the value of its two spark-plugs, Johnny Anderson and Mickey Mandals. Johnny was out with an injured ankle, and Mickey, whose leg was broken a few weeks ago, watched the game on crutches. Worse still, it went a long way towards confirming some ugly rumours — rumours which suggest that club discipline has broken down and that only half the players turn up on training nights.

If this is so, negotiations between Hellas and Greece's top coach, Laki Petropoulos, which would cost the club nearly £5,000 in the first year, are a waste of money. What the club needs is half-a-dozen first class reserve players so that it can implement strictly that important rule: "No train, no play, no pay".

Union boss to tour

The Victorian Soccer Players' Union will send their vice-president, Mr. Frank Rendering, overseas in October to visit players' unions in Europe.

He will tour England, Scotland, France, Holland and Italy.

Mr. Rendering also will make arrangements for the Victorian body to join European associations so that the two bodies can work together in future.

Secretary Mike de Bruyckere has sent a letter asking the Victorian Federation to accept the players' union now that they are a constituted association. The Federation are expected to discuss this matter at their meeting this week.

The extra teams will be nominated by the management committee bearing in mind the earlier decision that clubs should go out into the districts rather than stay in the inner city areas.

The bottom team in the first division will continue to be relegated and the top team in the second division will gain promotion.



Melbourne's wingers Col Meyers and Attila Abonyi were outstanding on Sunday, and centre-forward Matt McCaig, who scored cleverly twice, was always dangerous. And even with the help of what looked like a "gift" penalty goal, Hellas failed to match Melbourne in any department — including the spirit that wins games.

* * *

IN Saturday's game, too, the fact that J.U.S.T. beat George Cross 3-1 was not surprising. Again it was the nature of the win in many of its aspects that provided the unexpected.

Firstly, the ground was extremely soft and heavy, and it was doubtful whether J.U.S.T.'s attack could play its normal passing game. But play it certainly did.

Temperamental terpsichorean left-winger Tommy Stankovic was in the mood to play Soccer, and every move he made spelled danger for Cross. Normally, a defender, Ambrose Morgan was moved to inside-right to replace the injured Jake Gakovic, and he played a "blinder". And Cedo Cirkovic, Vero Mladenovic, Archie Blue, Lolly Vella, and Cec Dixon combined with the kind of crisp, deft passes that belied the gluepot nature of the playing surface.

George Cross was completely baffled in every sector. The only previous occasion this year that it had been so completely outplayed was seven weeks ago when it lost to Croatia 4-1.

Regular stalwarts Tommy McPherson, Johnny Brown, Eddie Sacco, Bobby Adams, Johnny McDaid, Don Hodgson, and Bobby Mayle seldom got into the game. Archie Campbell was blotted out and was replaced by Brian Finch at half time. Don Hodgson even failed to convert a penalty after a foul on Hans Peterson, and later Don badly damaged the muscular and nervous system in his left hip and thigh.

In other words, everything went right for J.U.S.T., and everything went wrong for Cross. Even when Cross rallied in the last 10 minutes, it gave J.U.S.T. let-offs with near-misses until 20 seconds before the end. Barry Horsfall headed Tommy McPherson's corner kick into the net for Cross' lone and belated goal.

Cedel Gift winners

SKZ's "Soccer Round-up" Cedel Gift winners last Saturday night were Mr. C. Babich, of 13 McArthur's Rd., North Altona and Mr. T. Tarakes, of 223 Glenferrie Road, Malvern.

Both will receive special presentation gifts of Cedel products for successfully answering questions from last week's issue of Soccer News.

Next Saturday night at 6.15, you too can win a special Cedel gift. All you have to do is answer a question from this issue of Soccer News.

Read it carefully and tune in to 3KZ at 6.15 next Saturday evening when Fred Villiers, Jim Cook and Martin Harris will be your hosts.

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